

Mass. Memories Road Show aims to preserve local history

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and the Council on Aging are also co-sponsoring the event.

Visitors to the Road Show are asked to take two or three photos that are important to them, Cole explained. The pictures will be scanned and immediately returned.

They will also be asked to fill out some paperwork about their photos and sit with a videographer for a short oral history.

The information will be archived at UMass Boston and copies of the information collected in Duxbury will be given to the local organizations sponsoring the event. "It's both an archive and a local resource," Cole said.

Because of its emphasis on photography, the Mass. Memories Road Show largely focuses on 20th century history. Many of the people who have participated in other towns have taken photos of their immigrant ancestors, Cole noted. And the road show has seen some genuine daguerreotypes. Of course, photographic

If you go

What: The Mass. Memories Road Show

Where: Duxbury Free Library

When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 23

Why: To collect photographs and personal histories from area residents

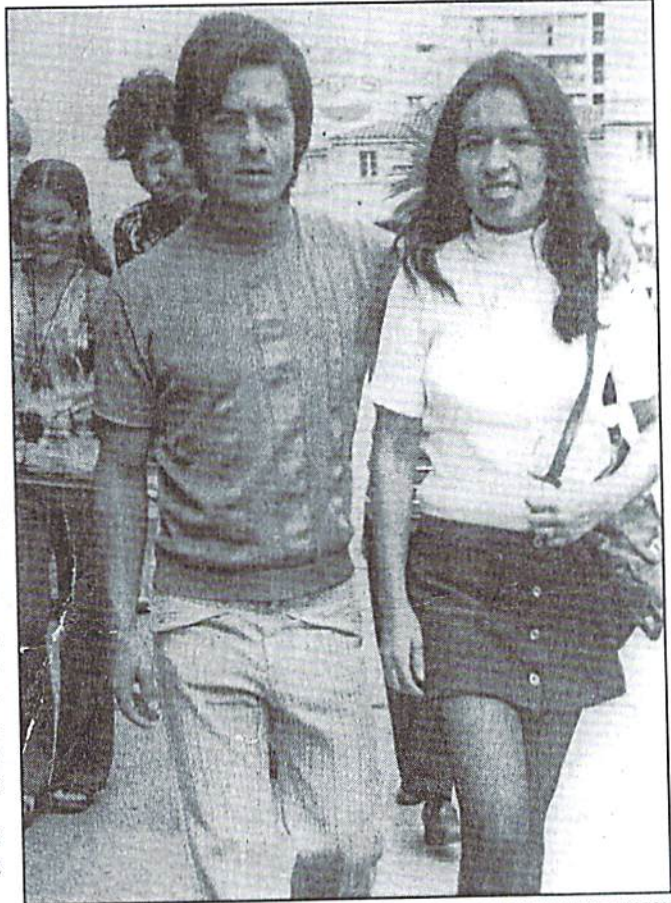
How much? It's free

What else? For more information call the library at 781-934-2721 ext 100.

history doesn't only feature touching family moments. People have taken photos of their pets; others have shown up with mementos of playing in 1980s metal bands.

Regardless of what the photos record, representatives of New England Archivists, an organization that helps preserve historical records, will be on hand to teach people the best way to preserve their pictures.

Though the event takes place in Duxbury, Cole said it is not limited to Duxbury residents.



COURTESY UMASS BOSTON

The person who brought this to an earlier Mass. Memory Road Show wrote that it was a 1973 photograph of "my grandparents when they were young."

Take a picture

History program
will collect local
memories

By Matthew Nadler
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DUXBURY – It's time to go into the closet, or that desk drawer that's so full it hasn't been opened since 2006, and get out your photos.

The Mass. Memories Road Show is coming to Duxbury.

A project of UMass Boston, the Road Show is an effort to document Massachusetts's history through family photos and stories, according to project manager Heather Cole.

Started in 2004, the project's organizers hope to eventually visit every town in the commonwealth.

The Mass. Memories Road Show receives funding from the university and the Mass Humanities, a state agency that funds projects that support the humanities.

According to Cole, the program gets enough money each year to hold about eight road shows.

The road show was developed, she said, as brainchild of Joanne Riley, the associate university librarian for Digital Library Services at UMass Boston's Healey Library. Through her work with historical societies throughout Massachusetts, she realized that while some communities, such as Salem or Boston, had extensive records of their past, others did not. The organizers also noted that the last century was often not well documented. "Historical societies are good with the old stuff," Cole said "but not with the 20th century."

David Murphy, head of the Duxbury Free Library's reference services, spearheaded the effort to bring the road show to town.

He learned about it from Mary Clark, the reference librarian at the Quincy Public Library. She spoke about the program during a local history round table meeting of Old Colony Library Network members.

But, in order to bring the event to Duxbury, one has to apply. An important part of the process is to bring in other local organizations that reflect a community's diversity.

In Duxbury's case, that was demonstrated by enlisting the Interfaith Council's participation.

The Rural and Historical Society

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COURTESY UMASS BOSTON

Many visitors to previous road shows have brought pictures of their immigrant ancestors.